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Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 251638

NODIS

FOL RPT CAIRO 17349 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 19 OCT 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 17349

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, EG, US
SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRES SADAT TO PRES CARTER -- EGYPTIAN
REACTION TO US WORKING PAPER

REF (A) CAIRO 17348, (B) CAIRO 17194, (C) CAIRO 17082,

1. AFTER HE HAD GIVEN ME THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING PRES SADAT'S
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REPLY TO PRES CARTER, AND AS WE WERE GOING DOWN IN THE ELEVATOR,
FAHMY MADE A NUMBER OF RANDOM OBSERVATIONS.

2. RECALLING HIS EARLIER PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO OUR
LATEST WP DAFT (REFS B AND C), FAHMY SAID THAT SADAT HAD
AGREED WITH HIS ANALYSIS. SADAT SHARES PRES CARTER'S VIEW
THAT THE PARTIES MUST NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE CAUGHT UP ON

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PROCEDURAL HOOKS, BUT IS OF THE VIEW THAT SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT WERE MADE IN THE WP DRAFT, WHICH SADAT HAD EARLIR APPROVED, ARE NOT SIMPLY PROCE-
DURAL BUT HAVE SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE IMPLICATIONS. SADAT AND HE HAD ALSO HAD INTENSIVE TALKS WITH ARAFAT FOR PAST TWO DAYS AND THESE ARE REFLECTED IN EGYPTIAN DOCUMENTS. IF WP IS TO BE ACCEPTED BY ALL THE ARABS AS BASIS FOR RECONVENING GENEVA, IT SHOULD BE MORE EVENLY BALANCED. I POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT HAVING SEEN HIS REFORMULATION, I WAS HARDLY ABLE TO COMMENT, BUT EMPHASIZED ONCE AGAIN THAT WE REGARD OUT LATEST WP DRAFT AS A CAREFULLY BALANCED DOCUMENT THAT ENABLES ALL SIDES FULLY TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. I REMINED HIM THAT THE ISRAELIS, TOO. HAVE HAD TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS.

3. FAHMY DEMURRED. AS HE SAW IT, THE SOLE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS WERE AGREEMENT TO A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION AND TO PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. ALL THE OTHER CHANGES IN OUR LATEST WP VERSION, AND THERE WERE MORE THAN WE HAD INITIALLY POINTED OUT TO HIM, COULD ONLY BE READ AS GIVING WAYS TO ISRAELI VIEWS. BOTH SADAT AND HE WERE DISTURBED THAT OUT LATEST WP VERSION SEEMED TO BE RETROGRESSIVE IN NATURE. I STRONGLY DISPUTED THIS CONTENTION, NOTING AGAIN THAT IT ALLOWS ALL PARTIES TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AND THAT SOME AMBIGUITY IS NECESSARY INSITUATION WHERE TWO

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SIDES WERE SO FAR APART. FAHMY CONTENDED THAT HIS REFORM-
ULATION, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS BASED ON OUR EARLIER DRAFT BUT ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OUR DESIRE TO HAVE REFERENCE TO UN RESOLUTION 242, IS MORE EVENLY BALANCED. HE WAS SURE THAT WE COULD, IF WE WISHED, SELL IT TO ISRAELIS.

4. FAHMY MADE ONE ADDIIONAL PLEA. NOTING THAT SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM HAD JUST VISITED AMMAN, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLILITY OF RENEWED SYRIAN/JORDANIAN COLLABORATION. HE URGED THAT WE SPEAK TO THE JORDANIANS ABOUT KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE FROM THE SYRIANS. HE WAS CLEARLY WORRIED THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD SEEK SOMEHOW TO ABORT THE EFFORT TO RECONVENE GENEVA.

5. APART FROM THE EGYPTIAN TALKS WITH ARAFAT THESE PAST TWO DAYS, I HAVE SEEN NO EVEIDNCE OF ANY GOE EFFORT TO COORDINATE POSITIONS WITH EITHER THE SYRIANS OR THE JORDANIANS. ASKED IF KHADDAM WAS EXPECTED IN CAIRO NEXT FEW DAYS, AS TODAY'S CAIRO PRESS INTIMATES, FAHMY SAID THATHE DID NOT KNOW. IF KHADDAM WANTS TO COME, HE IS WELCOME. FAHMY THEN RUSHED OFF TO HIS PEUPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEETING.

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6. EXAMINATION OF EGYPTIAN REFORMULATION, WHEN I FINALLY
GOT IT, INDICATES FAHMY REVERTED LARGELY TO OUR EARLIER
WP DRAFT, WHICH SADAT HAD APPROVED, BUT THAT HE ADDED
REFERENCE TO UN RESOLUTION 242 IN DEFERENCE TO OUR VIEWS.
EARLIER LANGUAGE THAT WITHIN A UNIFIED ARAB
DELEGATION THERE WILL BE PALESPINIANS IS OMITTED.
INSTEAD EGYPTIAN WP SIMPLY USES THE PHRASEOLOGY "DELEGA-
TION WILL RPT WILL INCLUDE NOT WELL KNOWN MEMBERS OF PLO".
ASSUME THESE CHANGES WERE MADE IN DEFERENCE TO ARAFAT'S
VIEWS. OTHERWISE FAHMY'S REFORMULATION CONSISTENT
WITH HIS EARLIER REACTION TO OUR LATEST WP DRAFT.
CLEARLY, HOWEVER, FAHMY CONSIDERS SUBJECT STILL NEGOTIABLE.
EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AGLASPIE:KHA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771036/aaaabelw.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 839459
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM PRES SADAT TO PRES CARTER -- EGYPTIAN REACTION TO US WORKING PAPER REF (A) CAIRO 17348, (B) CAIRO 17194, (C) CAIRO 17082
TAGS: PORG, EG, US
To: JIDDA TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a30b3a2a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009